

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A chair comprising:
a seat;
a pair of armrests at each side of the seat;
a pair of arm posts ~~for~~ supporting the armrests;
a backrest;
a pair of support struts ~~for~~ supporting the backrest;
a base under the seat;
a shaft horizontally provided in the base and rotatably
mounted to said pair of ~~supporting rods~~ support struts;
tilting means in the base ~~for~~ rotating the shaft to tilt the
backrest at an optional stepwise angle;
locking means ~~for~~ locking inclination of the backrest at said
angle;
a support arm in one of the arm posts; and
an operating lever connected to the locking means via the
support arm and a flexible cable, said operating lever
locking and releasing to lock and release the inclination
of the backrest.

2. Cancelled

3. (Original) A chair as claimed in claim 1 wherein the
operating lever is pivotally mounted to the support arm and
moved upward so as to pull up the cable.

4. (Currently Amended) A chair as claimed in claim 3 wherein the operating-~~arm~~ lever comprises a lever body having a recess in which a finger of a sitting person is engaged; and a pair of support portions having a short shaft which is engaged in a groove of the support arm.

5. (Currently Amended) A chair as claimed in claim-2 1 wherein a hollow arm pad support member in the arm post is provided to move up and down in the arm post to change height of the armrest, said cable being formed as a loop in the arm post.

6. (Original) A chair as claimed in claim 5 wherein the support member is provided in a armrest support rod in a hollow cylindrical height adjusting member which has a plurality of engagement portions therein, a pin projecting from the support member to engage on one of said plurality of engagement portions of the height adjusting member to change height of the armrest.

7. (Original) A chair as claimed in claim 4 wherein a wire holder projects from a rear end of the operating lever and is engaged with an end of the cable, the end of the cable which extends via the wire holder being fixed to the armrest.

8. (Original) A chair as claimed in claim 7 wherein a recess is formed on an outer surface of the rear end of the wire holder so that the cable may be in sliding contact on the wire holder.

9. (Currently Amended) A chair as claimed in claim 2 1 wherein a lower end of the cable is taken out of an exit of a connecting rod of the arm post, the exit being covered with a bottom cover.

10. (Currently Amended) A chair as claimed in claim 9 wherein a recess is formed under the bottom cover so that ~~the~~ the cable may be placed in the recess.

11. (Original) A chair as claimed in claim 9 wherein the bottom cover is fixed by engagement and by a screw to the connecting rod.

12. (Currently Amended) A chair ~~as claimed~~ comprising: in claim 2 ~~wherein the~~
a seat
a pair of armrests at each side of the seat;
a pair of arm posts supporting the armrests;
a backrest;
a pair of support struts supporting the backrest;
a base under the seat
a shaft horizontally provided in the base and rotatably mounted to said pair of struts;
tilting means in the base rotating the shaft to tilt the backrest at an optional stepwise angle, said tilting means in the base rotating the shaft to tilt the backrest at an angle, ~~tilting means comprises~~ comprising force promoting return means which comprises a force promoting unit comprising a core which rotates with the shaft, elastic material around the core and an outer tube around the elastic material;

locking means locking inclination of the backrest at said angle, said locking means comprising a sector gear mounted to the shaft to rotate together with the core, and an engagement member connected to the operating lever via the cable and engagable with teeth of the sector gear thereby holding the backrest at an optional stepwise angle and releasing it;
a support arm in one of the arm posts; and
an operating lever connected to the locking means via the support arm and a flexible cable, said operating lever locking and releasing the inclination of the backrest.

13. Cancelled

14. (New) A chair as claimed in claim 1 wherein a rear end of an arm pad and a lower end of the support arm are mounted to an upper rear portion and an upper front portion of the arm post respectively to rotate horizontally, an upper end of the support arm being pivotally mounted to a front end of the arm pad to move back and forth.